Distribution of land to landless tribals

2899. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the threat of non-cooperation by the Gujarat Government with the Central Government, in the matter of distribution of land to landless tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to protect the interest of tribals as far as distribution of forest land is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has enacted the 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' to recognise and vest certain rights over forest land on forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

Rise in dowry cases

2900. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dowry cases have been on a rise in the last few years;

(b) if so, the increase in the complaints registered in such cases during 2004-06; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control this unabated rising trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the number of cases of Dowry Death [Section 304-B IPC] reported in the country during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were 2684 and 6208, 3592 and 7026 and 3204 and 6787 respectively, thereby, showing a mixed trend in the incidence. Similar information for .the year 2006 is under collection by the Bureau.

(c) Action is being taken for the empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them, as mentioned in the given Statement (*See* below). The Government has also advised all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure full compliance with the directions contained in the judgement dated 2.5.2005 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 499/1997 in fhe matter of 'Re-enforcement and Implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961'.

Statement

Action being taken for Empowerment of Woment and to Curb Crimes against them

Law and order and other criminal matters is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:–

- Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.
- setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme.
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.
- grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking.
- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.
- organizing legal literacy and legal awareness camps.
- implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti Project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban Programme and Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP).
- review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women.
- sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues.
- Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to

effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women.
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence.
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations.
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence.
- provide counseling to victims of rape.
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters.
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers.
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- setting up of Fast Track Courts
- setting up of Family Courts
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Juvenile Homes

†2901. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether children living in juvenile homes of different States are provided suitable atmosphere and in what manner these juvenile homes function to improve children;

(b) whether State Governments review and monitor the functioning of such juvenile homes in different States;

(c) whether Central Government are informed about it and if so, whether Government find management and functioning of these juvenile homes or orphanages satisfactory; and

(d) whether the State Governments have received complaints also in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.